

Ohio Citizen Action



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Ohio Citizen Action
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Ohio Citizen Action is the state's largest citizens organization, with 150,000 members statewide. We have spent the last 25 years campaigning on environmental and consumer issues. Much of that time has been spent opposing nuclear power and the astronomical electric rates nuclear power has brought northern Ohio ratepayers.

Ohio Citizen Action does all of its public education through a door-to-door canvass and telephone canvass. In the fall of 1997, we campaigned door-to-door across northern Ohio on the issue of transporting spent nuclear fuel to Yucca Mountain. We found overwhelming support against the D.O.E.'s plan to hurl this waste on our highways and railways without the knowledge or technology of how to transport it or store it safely. Over 15,000 Ohioans signed petitions opposing this plan, and 4,000 took the time to write their member of Congress urging them to stop the plan.

1...

The Department of Energy has done a poor job communicating the progression of this crucial project to those it will impact the most—the citizens. It's troublesome to know that the agency charged with determining how to transport and store such a deadly

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1 cont. waste is incapable of communicating to the public if or how it can do it. This is a classic right-to-know issue, and you have violated this right.

2 Under the proposed plan, an average of one shipment of high level radioactive waste would travel through Ohio, every two days, for thirty to forty years. It is an inevitable fact that accidents will happen. No matter how many videos you show to Congress or the media about the alleged cask testing, the state of Ohio nor the local government are prepared to deal with a radioactive accident of this magnitude.

3 We recognize that the waste has to be moved at some point. Frankly, it's one of the reasons we've opposed nuclear power from the beginning. However, the Department of Energy should not risk the lives of citizens without a clear and compelling reason. The only reason that exists is if there is a place, somewhere, where this waste can be stored for the next 200,000 years where it no longer poses a threat to human health or the environment. So far, you have failed to demonstrate the merits of this plan.

I urge the Department of Energy to prolong the plan to move spent nuclear fuel until you have determined, without a doubt, that you can transport it safely, store it safely, and provide states and local governments with plenty of money and training to prepare for the likelihood of an accident.